

# Political friends, foes unite to help defray Conroy debts

By Karen Hosler

Tonight's posthumous fund-raiser for former state Senator Edward T. Conroy at Martin's West may rank as one of the most extraordinary political events in Maryland history.

Mr. Conroy, who died of cancer in late May, was neither a peacemaker nor particularly popular, but a remarkable array of long-time enemies—of his and of each other—have put their talents together to help his widow retire \$75,000 in his campaign debts.

"Conroy will do better on this than on any fund-raiser he had when he was alive," said Dennis Devaney, chief organizer of the event who also managed much of Mr. Conroy's unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate in 1980.

Mr. Devaney estimated that between \$15,000 and \$25,000 will be netted for Mary Conroy from the gathering, depending on how large union contributions turn out to be.

The program committee includes Governor Hughes and all top state officials, all members of Maryland's congressional delegation, the entire General Assembly, leaders of both political parties and Republican and Democratic local officials.

Perhaps more interesting is the fund-raising letter sent out that was signed by four of Mr. Conroy's fellow office holders from Prince Georges county—most of whom have little use for each other.

They include Democrats Samuel W. Bogley, the lieutenant governor ousted from Mr. Hughes's ticket; Representative Steny Hoyer, who helped oust Mr. Bogley four years ago from the Prince Georges county council; State's Attorney Arthur H. "Bud" Marshall; and Lawrence J. Hogan, the Republican county executive, who excoriates Mr. Hoyer's one-time "machine."

"It's just like Ed's funeral," Mr. Devaney said. "He would have loved the political ironies."